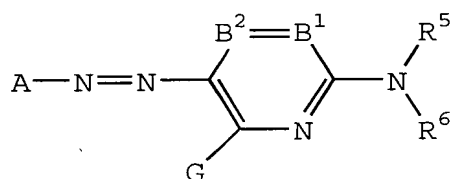


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ink composition consisting essentially of comprising at least water, at least one member selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by formula (1) shown below and a salt thereof, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof:

Formula (1):

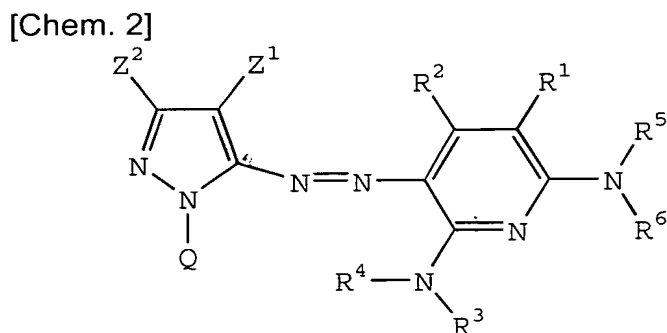


wherein A represents a residue of a 5-membered heterocyclic diazo component A-NH₂; B¹ and B² each represents -CR¹= or -CR²=, or either one of B¹ and B² represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents -CR¹= or -CR²=; R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, and each group may further have a substituent; G, R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxycarbonyloxy group, an amino group

substituted by an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an alkylsulfonylamino group, an arylsulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, and each group may be further substituted; and R¹ and R⁵, or R⁵ and R⁶ may combine to form a 5- or 6-membered ring.

Claim 2 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof is a compound represented by the following formula (2) or a salt thereof:

Formula (2):



wherein Z¹ represents an electron-withdrawing group having a Hammett's substituent constant σ_p value of 0.20 or more; Z² represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; R¹, R², R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings as in formula (1); R³ and R⁴ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group; Q represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic

group or a heterocyclic group; and the groups represented by Z^1 , Z^2 , R^1 to R^6 and Q may each further have a substituent.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content ratio of said at least one member selected from a compound represented by formula (1) and a salt thereof and said at least one member selected from an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof is from 4:1 to 1:10 in terms of weight ratio of respective total amounts.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof is a compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof.

Claim 5 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position or a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position and having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a 2-naphthoic acid, a 3-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-methoxy-2-naphthoic acid, or a salt thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein said salt of the aromatic compound having a carboxyl group is a lithium salt.

Claims 8 and 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented) An inkjet recording method comprising ejecting a liquid droplet of the ink composition according to claim 1, and attaching said liquid droplet onto a recording medium, thereby performing recording.

Claim 11 (previously presented) Recorded matter which is recorded with the ink composition claimed claim 1.

Claim 12 (previously presented) Recorded matter which is by the recording method claimed in claim 10.